

**Centre for East Asian Studies**  
**School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University**  
**PhD Course Work**  
**Winter Semester, 2023**  
**Research Methodology**

Course Title:	Research Methodology
Programme:	Ph.D.
Course No.:	EA 628
Course Status:	Compulsory Course
Semester:	Second Semester
Teaching Methods:	Lectures/Seminars/ Discussions/Workshops
Credit:	Four (4)
Contact Hours:	4 per week (Tuesday and Thursday- 2.00 pm to 4:00 pm)
Class Room:	130, SIS New Building
Course In-charge:	Sandip Kumar Mishra

**Objective of the Course:**

This is a course to train students in the research methodology of social sciences. The course is formulated to impart interdisciplinary perspective to the students. The course covers evolution as well as current state of research methods by covering various paradigms, philosophies, and theories of research. The course intends to discuss about qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods in social science research. The course also covers various research designs and discusses about how to articulate a research questions, how to write a synopsis and how to conduct a research. In addition, the course also likes to discuss the idea of area studies and train students to seamlessly use their training of research methodology into their synopses and thesis writings.

The course is of four credits and has following specific objectives:

1. Introduce various research paradigms and philosophies to the students
2. Familiarize them with the role of theory in the research
3. Train them in qualitative and quantitative methods
4. Provide them understanding about the origins, nature and course of Area Studies
5. Underline the importance of language, field work and disciplinary training in pursuing Area Studies
6. Discuss about the course and nature of Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies
7. Make student write a model Ph.D. synopsis and discuss about its various components.

**Outcomes of the Course:**

The course is designed in to seek accomplishment of the objectives of the course. The readings are going to be revised every year and additional relevant reading would be provided during the course work to have a better outcome. The lectures would be largely interactive in nature to involve students in the process and help them to internalize the methods in social sciences research. In-class discussion would be done to promote the same objectives and outcomes. A model synopsis would be completed by all the students and all of them would be collectively discussed in the class to learn the intricacies of the research. The course would

try to encourage students to be aware about the important scholars as well as trends in the research of Chinese/Japanese/Korean Studies.

**Evaluation:**

Class Participation	20%
Term Paper (4000-5000 words)	15%
Presentation	15%
End-Semester Examination	50%

**Course Content:**

- 1. Introduction:** Social Science Research, Difference between Natural and Social Science, Conceptions of Science- verification (falsification), objectivity and value neutrality
- 2. Research Paradigms-** Ontology and Epistemology, Empiricism and Rationalism
- 3. Research Philosophies-** Positivism, Critical Realism, Interpretivism, Post-Modernism, Pragmatism, History of Social Science Research , Thomas Kuhn and Karl Popper, Imre Lakatos and Paul Feyerabend
- 4. Theory and Approaches to Theory Development-** Deduction, Induction, Abduction, Deductive and Inductive Methods
- 5. Research Methods:** Qualitative and Quantitative Methods- Mono Method Quantitative, Mono Method Qualitative, Multi Method Quantitative, Multi Method Qualitative, Mixed Method simple,
- 6. Research Techniques and Procedures-** Data Collection and data analysis, Data Collection Methods:, Different methods of data collection, participant-non-participant observation, questionnaires, interviews, mining, Internet sources, Sampling Techniques: probability and non-probability sampling, Data Processing: establishing categories and coding data, Data Interpretation: Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics, Preparation of Research Report
- 7. Research Strategies-** Experiment, Survey, Archival Research, Case Study, Ethnography, Action Research, Grounded Theory Narrative Enquiry, Time Horizon- Cross-sectional, Longitudinal, Variables
- 8. Research Methodology and Area Studies:** History of Area Studies (WHY), Area Studies as a discipline, Role of theory in Area Studies and A Theory or Area Studies, Theory or Empirical Investigation in Area Studies, Ontology and Epistemology of Area Studies, Comparative Area Studies
- 9. Research Contours of Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies:** History, Nature, Specificity and Future Direction
- 10. East Asian Studies: Research and Resources:** Types of resources, location and access of resources, Digital Resources
- 11. Writing Synopsis and Conducting Research:** Conceptualizing Research Question, Writing Synopsis, Conducting Research and writing dissertation– footnotes, endnotes

## Readings

- Ahram, Ariel Ira, Patrick Köllner, Rudra Sil (eds.), *Comparative Area Studies: Methodological Rationales and Cross-regional Applications*, London: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Bary, Theodore de “East Asian Studies: A Comprehensive Program,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 356, November 1964, pp. 63-69.
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